

To: A TRANSPLANT NURSE
From: A RECIPIENT'S FAMILY

September 7th is always a day of reflection for us....and always will be.

You see, September 7th is the anniversary of the **heart transplant** of our daughter, Sarah, and the beginning of a new life for her. As we've reflected on the events that led up to September 7th, 2000, we can remember feeling totally helpless, and totally reliant on others for our lives to go on. Not only did we have to raise \$150,000 (St. Louis Children's Hospital's estimate of our co-pay after insurance), but **if** a donor heart became available, (and we had no idea **if** and/or **when** that would be), we would have to travel to another city and get there within hours. Some did not believe it could happen. **Our family never lost hope.**

Through the efforts of the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), and many, many wonderful people here in Omaha, the money was raised. We waited 5 1/2 long months from the time Sarah was listed on the National Transplant Waiting List, and on the night of Sept. 6, 2000 we received **the call**. We had **one hour** to drop our lives, head to the airport, where a charter jet was waiting to take us to St. Louis Children's Hospital. **The way things came together that night and the next day was nothing short of a miracle of God!** We can't even begin to imagine the circumstances that led to the difficult decision the donor family made in donating their child's heart. There were many ups and downs in the months afterwards, but we pulled through!

The rest is history, recorded in newspaper articles and television news stories. Sarah became a gold medal swimmer after the transplant, competing on her high school swim team and at the National Transplant Games in 2002 and 2004. She then was inducted into the **Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame and received the Inspiration Award!** She is majoring in exercise science and plans to work in cardiac rehabilitation when her schooling is completed.

None of this could have been possible without people like you, and the Transplant Nurses worldwide. Thank you for all you do and continue to do for our families.

May God bless you,
Joan, Bruce, and Sarah Prenosil
Omaha, NE